



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

July 11, 2002

OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Response to Final Report No. 2002-P-00008 "EPA and State Progress In Issuing Title V Permits"

**FROM:** Jeffrey R. Holmstead /s/  
Assistant Administrator

**TO:** Leah L. Nikaidoh, Audit Manager  
Office of the Inspector General

In accordance with EPA Order 2750, I am responding to the Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) final report of findings and recommendations concerning EPA and State progress in issuing title V permits. We appreciate the insights the report provides in answering the question: "What more can EPA do to expedite permit issuance by the States?" and agree with your findings that a number of factors, at both the State and EPA levels, have contributed overall to delays in permit issuance. While the Agency has made efforts to collect information, track permit issuance, prepare guidance materials, and offer technical assistance to our State and local agency partners, we agree with the OIG's findings that we can do more. Along these lines, we are proposing in our action plan to conduct program evaluations across the country in order to better understand the current status of these permitting programs and, where relevant, identify problem areas as well as "good practices."

Attached is our response, which includes the OIG recommendations and our action plans for implementing those recommendations.

If you have any questions about this response, please contact Steve Hitte at 919-541-0886. The staff contact for this report is Scott Voorhees, who can be reached at 919-541-5348.

Attachment

cc: Beth Craig  
Steve Page  
Bill Harnett  
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